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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Healthy competition is one of the core values of the United States. Local companies that serve their communities tailor their offerings to the unique and varied needs of their neighbors. Mega-corporations by definition must offer homogeneous, one-size-fits-all products.

I am disturbed by the recent petition to allow mega-corporations to increase the price paid by local providers to use their infrastructure; those costs will result in increased prices paid by consumers for no increase in service. Sadly, a longer-term result will likely be to eliminate competition in many areas, allowing mega-corps to offer what suits their bottom line rather than what meets the needs of their customers. And, as competition is forced to limit their services or even abandon the marketplace, the resulting one-provider option becomes the, "if you want it, you have to pay our price" monopoly. In smaller communities, mega-companies will likely choose not to bother to provide services since the bang for their buck isn't big enough.

I am fortunate to live in a community that has a robust local/regional provider, Sonic.Net. Again and again, I have watched them listen to the needs of their customers and do their best to provide excellent, affordable internet access. Some years ago, I lived in a town where the only option, other than satellite, was AT&T. The quality and cost of their service was disheartening. Since it was the only game in town, that was what I paid for. Customer service and product quality were both very bad. Sonic has been a refreshing change.

Please do not encourage conglomerates in their desire to takeover the marketplace and maximize their bottom line. There is room enough for everyone. Competition encourages companies to consider quality and customer value, not just their bottom line and shareholder return.

Tara Steele